

Landowner Assistance Program: Providing Private Landowners with Wildlife Management Assistance

By *Claude Jenkins*

Wildlife Biologist in partnership with the Alabama Forestry Commission,
the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association, and the Alabama Wildlife Federation

With the majority of the land base in Alabama held by private landowners, the management of these lands is essential for sustaining and enhancing wildlife and other natural resources. These private lands provide valuable natural resources that directly affect the quality of life of all Alabama's citizens. Alabama is an ecologically diverse state and its abundant natural resources and their management are critically important ecologically, socially, and economically.

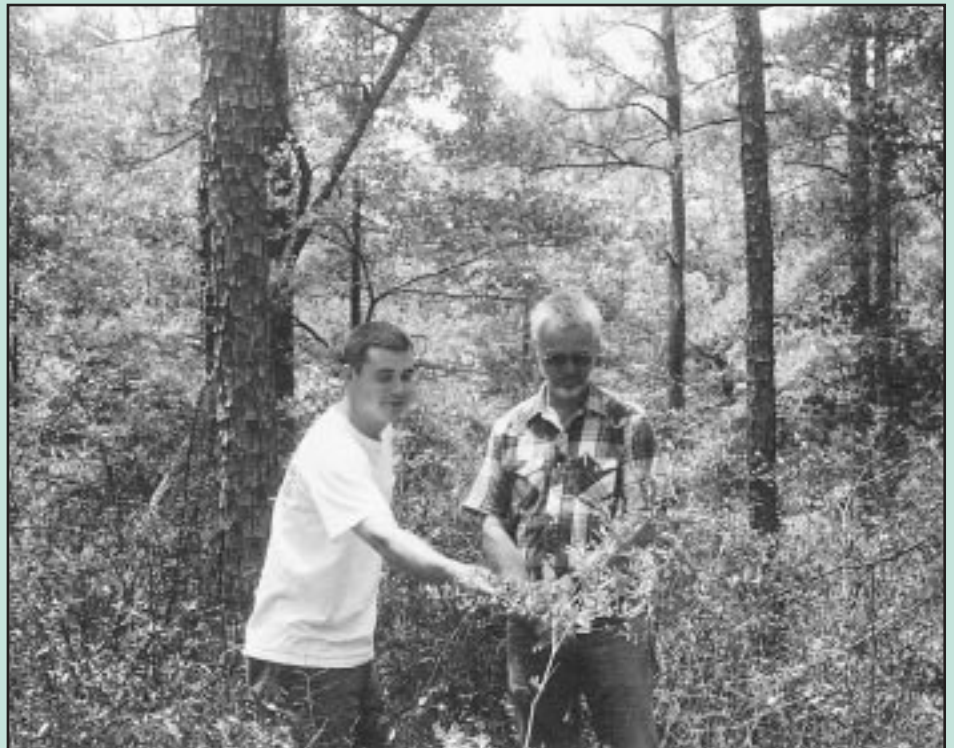
One of the essential ingredients in conserving and sustaining wildlife resources is habitat improvement on private lands. To accomplish this goal, the Alabama Forestry Commission, the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association, and the Alabama Wildlife Federation formed a partnership to provide technical assistance to private non-industrial landowners. The partners are committed to working with landowners to improve wildlife habitat and promote conservation and land stewardship.

Since the inception of the program in August of 1999, on-site assistance has been provided to nearly 350 landowners in every county in the state and over 200,000 acres of wildlife habitat have been evaluated. In less than two years,

requests for assistance have exceeded the ability of one biologist to provide timely assistance statewide. Consequently, a new partnership was formed between the Alabama Forestry Commission and the Longleaf Alliance to hire an additional

biologist. John Dickson, a Louisiana native, was hired in November 2001 and is responsible for assisting landowners in south Alabama.


The landowner assistance program offers interested landowners an opportu-



Wildlife Biologist John Dickson (left) examines the effects of a growing season burn on understory hardwoods.

nity to work with a professional wildlife biologist toward improving wildlife habitat on their property. Assistance is designed to help landowners meet their goals and emphasizes the value of wildlife management and responsible stewardship. Whether your recreational enjoyment comes from hunting or simply observing wildlife, the landowner assistance program can help enhance these opportunities on your property.

The landowner assistance program can provide a link to available assistance offered by state and federal agencies and private organizations. For landowners interested in the TREASURE Forest Program, biologists work closely with professional foresters to provide on-site technical assistance and provide written recommendations for inclusion in TREASURE Forest management plans. Additionally, biologists work with foresters to conduct TREASURE Forest inspections for landowners eligible for certification.

To be eligible for assistance, landowners must own a minimum of 10 acres of forestland. There is no charge or obligation for participating in this program. For more information about the landowner assistance program, contact the biologist near you. 



Wildlife Biologist Claude Jenkins (left) and landowner Bruce Wagner evaluate a food plot on Triple B Farms in Dallas County.

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Application for Landowner Assistance

*The biologist will contact you as soon as possible to schedule a consultation with you.
Please provide the following information:*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: (day) _____ (evening): _____

Email: _____

County where property is located: _____ Total acres: _____